

Developing the Rural Sector Statistical Information System: The Philippine Experience

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The Rural Sector Statistical Information System (RSSIS), designed as a comprehensive, integrated, well - managed and sustainable statistical system for the rural sector, was intended to aid government in developing appropriate strategies, implementing policies and programs, and monitoring the progress of poverty reduction in the rural areas.

The proposed RSSIS had 13 modules of social and economic concerns with 117 development indicators. Cited as a major limitation of the system was the absence of urban – rural disaggregation in some of the modules. Data users and producers also pointed out the need for small-area statistics to support the data requirements of local government units. To address this concern, the Project, in consultation with development stakeholders (local government officers and community leaders in the pilot region), crafted the Community Level Statistical Information System (CLSIS). The CLSIS defined a system of compiling, processing and analyzing village-level data by village officials themselves.

The RSSIS and CLSIS were developed side by side with a strong institutional capacity building program for the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics and the local government units in handling and utilizing rural sector statistics. The Project provided relevant training, necessary equipment, and practical operations manuals to key implementers of the systems.